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THE HEALTH
OF ROYTON
1952

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Urban District of Royton
Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector



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The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Urban District of Royton
Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Town Hall,
ROYTON.
August, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Lady and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1952.

The birth rate showed a slight recovery from the previous year, the death rate was identical but the estimated population decreased by 90. A continuing disturbing feature was the infantile mortality rate of 53, compared with a rate of 27·6 for England and Wales. It will be seen that there were six deaths under 1 week old, and four stillbirths recorded, and emphasis must again be placed on the need for efficient ante-natal care. For the rest, alleviation of overcrowding and improvement of living conditions generally, can but reflect on a more worthwhile way of life at all ages.

The incidence of infectious disease was satisfactorily low, and yet another year passed without a case of diphtheria being notified. The need for the immunisation of every child before its first birthday remains as pressing as ever but as the knowledge and fear of diphtheria declines, the more difficult it becomes to ensure this.

I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and to the Sanitary Inspector and fellow officials for their co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health.

ROYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council, 1952-53:

Councillor C. LIVESEY, J.P.

Health Committee, 1952-53:

Councillor C. Heywood, Chairman.

Councillor C. Livesey, J.P., Vice-Chairman.

Councillor S. B. Crosland.

Councillor W. E. Critchley.

Councillor J. Ogden.

Councillor G. Sherratt.

Councillor G. L. Buckley, C.C., J.P.

Councillor J. Milne.

Councillor T. Moores.

Councillor B. C. Cook.

Councillor L. Haslam.

Councillor N. Hammond.

Councillor T. L. Schofield.

Councillor H. M. Taylor.

Councillor Mrs. J. Laverack.

Clerk of the Council:

A. Donald Ogden, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health:

E. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

G. Cayton, M.S.I.A.

Junior Clerk:

Miss I. Butterfield.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1952.

TABLE I.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	2,149
Population (Census, 1931)	16,689
Preliminary Census, 1951	14,772
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1952	14,630
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	4,370
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1952, according to rate books	4,964
Rateable value £89,164	
Sum represented by penny rate £353	

TABLE II.—VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Total	Males	Females		
Legitimate	206	101	105	Birth-rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate	3	—	3	estimated population	
				Crude	14.3
				Adjusted	14.0
Still Births	4	3	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	19
				Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	
				Crude	15.4
Deaths	226	120	106	Adjusted	15.9
Respiratory Tuberculosis					0.48
Malignant Neoplasms, etc.					1.98
Maternal Mortality—					
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.....					Nil
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.....					Nil
Infant Mortality—					
Number of infant deaths (under one year)					11
Death-rate of infants—					
All infants per 1,000 live births					53
Neo-natal Mortality—					
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age					6
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births					29
Deaths from Heart Disease					75
Deaths from Cancer					29
Deaths from Respiratory diseases					25
Deaths from Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.					28

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1952.

	Males.	Females.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	2	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	8	5
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	21
18. Coronary disease, angina	9	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
20. Other heart disease	30	29
21. Other circulatory disease	2	6
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	4
24. Bronchitis	11	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	21	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	—
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	<hr/> 120	<hr/> 106

TABLE IV.—DEATHS CLASSIFIED IN AGE GROUPS.

Under one year	11
1 — 2 years	—
2 — 5 years	1
5 — 15 years	1
15 — 25 years	2
25 — 45 years	13
45 — 65 years	56
65 — 75 years	72
75 years and upwards.....	69
Others	1
	<hr/> 226

TABLE V.—INFANTILE DEATHS and CAUSES.

Under one year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Congenital Malformations	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	3
Atelectasis	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Prematurity	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Suprarenal Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Gastro-enteritis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total...	6	...	...	...	6	1	...	2	2	11

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance.

The ambulance service is provided by the Oldham Corporation, under an agency service agreement with the Lancashire County Council.

Care of Children under the Children Act, 1948.

The work in connection with Infant Life Protection and Adoption of Children is carried out by the Lancashire County Council. The Area Children's Officer is Miss France, Enville House, Scotland Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Clinics.

These are held, mainly at the Clinic, Post Office Buildings, as follows:—

Ante and Post Natal: Every Wednesday at 9-30 a.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation: Once monthly.

Maternity and Child Welfare: Every Thursday 2 p.m. at the Village Sunday School.

Ophthalmic: Every alternate Friday at 8-30 a.m.

Orthopædic: By appointment at Chadderton Clinic.

School Health: Minor Ailments—

Mondays and Thursday mornings.

Speech Therapy and Child Guidance by appointment.

Convalescence.

Under arrangements by the Lancashire County Council through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangement made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

Health Visiting Service.

Full time Health Visitors and School Nurses are employed in the area by Lancashire County Council.

Home Help Service.

This service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. Enquiries should be made to the Divisional Medical Officer, "Tylon", Middleton Road, Chadderton.

Tel. MAln 6251.

Home Nursing Service.

Provided by the Lancashire County Council through the Divisional Medical Officer. Two District Nurses reside in Royton, and are available for this area at Holly Bank, Church Street, Royton. Tel.: MAln 2896.

Hospitals.

The hospital provision is now as follows:

- General—Hospitals in Oldham, Rochdale, Manchester and Salford.
- Infectious Diseases—Westhulme Hospital, Oldham.
- Monsall Hospital, Manchester.
- Maternity—Boundary Park Hospital, Oldham.

Midwifery Service.

One midwife, employed by the Lancashire County Council, practices in this area: Mrs. A. Parsons, 54 Milton Street, Royton. Tel.: MAln 5669.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire County Council in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Welfare Services.

Under arrangements made by Lancashire County Council. Resident accommodation is provided at Boundary Park Annexe.

Tuberculosis.

The Chest Clinic for the treatment of tuberculosis and other chest diseases is at Brook Street, Chadderton, where X-Ray facilities are available.

Venereal Diseases.

Facilities for treatment at Boundary Park General Hospital: The District Infirmary, Ashton: The Municipal Clinic, Baillie Street, Rochdale.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified was 167 (as against 303 in 1951).

The main decreases in numbers were Measles cases 99 (223 in 1951): Dysentery 6 (23): Whooping Cough 26 (33): Pneumonia 5 (6): There was an increase in cases of Scarlet Fever, 29 cases being notified compared with 12 in the previous year. This disease continued to be of a mild type.

Diphtheria.

For the third consecutive year no case of Diphtheria was notified.

Smallpox.

There were no cases in the Royton U.D.C. Area. Several contacts and suspected cases connected with the outbreak of a mild type of Smallpox in the Rochdale area required investigation and surveillance.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of new notifications was 10, this being 5 fewer than in 1951. There were 5 deaths compared with 3 in the previous year.

Laboratory Work.

Most of the bacteriological work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Monsall Hospital.

The following are particulars of specimens examined:—

	Negative	Positive
Throat Swabs	1	—
Sputum	1	—
Fæces	177	7

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.

No case warranted action under this section during the year.

Disinfections.

Four houses were disinfected during the year, mainly for tuberculosis.

Arrangements are made for steam disinfection of bedding with the Oldham Health Department.

TABLE VI.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1952.

Disease	Cases Notified											Total Deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Death in Hospital of persons belonging to the District
	Total cases of all ages	Years												
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 & over	age unkn'n			
Scarlet Fever	29	...	...	7	13	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...
Measles	99	6	18	28	42	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	2	...
Whooping Cough ...	26	1	7	12	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	1	...
Dysentery	6	...	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Food Poisoning ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total...	167	8	29	47	62	10	5	2	3	1	...	1	17	1

TABLE VII.—TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5—	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
10—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—	2	...	...	1	3	...	...	...
35—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
55—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals...	5	2	...	3	3	1	1	...
	7		3		4		1	

TABLE VIII.—HOUSING.**Statistics for the year 1952.**

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(i)	By the local authority	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
(ii)	By other local authorities	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	125
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	.....	270
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.....	12
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.....		23
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	12
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	88

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....	70
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs.....	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices were rendered fit:—	

(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners.....	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners.....	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936: Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	6
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	31
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	4

5. Housing Act, 1949: Part II.—Improvements grants, etc:—

	Schemes of private bodies or individuals	Schemes of local authority
(a) (i) Number of Schemes submitted:—		
(a) by private individuals to local authority	1	Nil
(b) by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	1	Nil
(b) (i) Number of Schemes approved by Ministry	1	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	1	Nil
(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved Schemes	Nil	Nil
(c) Number of additional separate dwell- ings actually completed during the year	Nil	Nil

**THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1952.**

To the Chairman and Members of the
Royton Urban District Council.

Sir, Madam,

I have again the honour to submit the annual report relating to the sanitary circumstances of the area and the work carried out during the year 1952,

As mentioned in more detail in my last report unsatisfactory housing conditions still remain the greatest problem.

May I express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials, my thanks for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

G. CAYTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION 1.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1). Water Supply.

The piped water supply of the Oldham County Borough Council covers the greater part of the district of Royton. This piped supply is subject to chlorination.

(2). Drainage and Sewerage.

There was no important extension of sewerage during the year.

(3). Rivers and Streams.

Regular inspections were made but no major action was required.

(4). Sanitary Accommodation.

The following table gives details of the sanitary accommodation of dwelling-houses in the district at the end of 1952.

Fresh Water Closets	3,720	Cesspools	Nil
Waste Water Closets	807	Dustbins	5,010
Privy Middens	Nil	Dry Ashpits.....	7
Pail Closets.....	42		

As a result of applications from house-owners, grants were made by the Council in 9 cases towards the cost of converting waste water closets.

(5). Public Cleansing.

This is under the control of the Carrying and Cleansing Committee. Tipping continued at the Haggate and Higginshaw Tips. Collecting motor vehicles numbered two full-time.

Under the scheme for the free provision of dustbins to dwelling-houses, the number of bins supplied during the year was 299.

(6). Sanitary Inspections during 1952 (including Housing).

During the course of the year the following nuisances or defects which were reported upon month by month to the Health Committee, were dealt with. A total number of 511 were remedied in a satisfactory manner within the year.

They may be summarised as follows:—

Blocked drains	61
Defective drains	15
Waste W.C. stoppages	16
W.W.C.'s converted to fresh water W.C.'s	9
Defective W.C.'s	18
Defective Waste W.C.'s	5
Defective dustbins renewed	276
Additional dustbins provided	26
Defective downspouts	6
Eaves gutters renewed	9
Burst water service pipes	7
Other housing defects	55
Accumulations removed	7
Sink waste pipes renewed	1
	<hr/>
	511
	<hr/>

To secure the remedy of these defects 90 informal notices and 5 statutory notices were served upon owners or agents, in addition to numerous interviews.

The total number of visits to various premises was 2,501.

(7). Shops and Offices.

330 visits were made under the Shops Act, 1950 on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, relating to hours of employment of young persons and the health and comfort of shop workers. Reports on all visits were forwarded to the County Medical Officer.

No action under the Public Health Act, 1936, was taken relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.

(8). Camping Sites (other than Military).

No sites were used for this purpose for any extended period, making the issue of licenses under the Public Health Act, 1936, unnecessary.

(9). Smoke Abatement.

4 observations of factory chimneys were taken during the year and the management of firms interviewed when found necessary.

Two lead peroxide gauges are installed in the area under the joint scheme of adjoining authorities for the investigation of atmospheric pollution.

(10). Swimming Baths.

The public swimming baths in the centre of the district continued to be well patronised. The filtered and chlorinated water was tested at frequent intervals for the determination of residual chlorine and bacteriological cleanliness.

(11). Verminous premises.

No serious infestation occurred during the year. Three houses were disinfested.

(12). Rodent Control.

257 premises were inspected. Rat and mice infestations were dealt with at 18 premises during the year.

Two maintenance treatments of the sewers in the district, involving the baiting and poisoning of 269 man-holes, were completed during the year, and good results obtained.

(13). Schools.

The result of visits made did not require any special action.

(14). Offensive Trades.

None of these specified trades exist in the area.

(15). Factories Act, 1937.

At the end of the year the number of factories in the district was 106. Of this number 94 were factories with mechanical power, and 12 were factories without mechanical power.

49 inspections were made. Two defects relating to want of cleanliness or insufficient sanitary accommodation were found and remedied during the year.

(16). Common Lodging-Houses.

Only one common lodging-house is registered and this received regular visits.

(17). Tents, Vans, and Sheds, etc.

No action was necessary during the year.

(18). Rag Flock Act, 1951.

There are no premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored.

(19). Health Committee Meetings.

All eleven meetings were attended.

SECTION 2.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1). Milk Supply.

Apart from local producers there are 56 milk purveyors, registered to sell milk in the district.

The supervision of the production of milk at all dairy farms was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture on the 1st October, 1949.

The local authority remain responsible for administering the regulations with regard to the retailing of milk.

Tuberculosis Milk—

Number of samples submitted for biological test—14.

Results:— Negative 13. Positive 1.

Bacteriological Examinations—

Number of samples taken—14.

Results:— Satisfactory 13.

The samples were examined for coliform bacilli and the Methylene Blue Reduction Test for keeping quality.

The Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936 and 1938.

Dealers Licenses (including supplementary licenses) granted:—

Tuberculin tested, retail distribution	15
Accredited, retail distribution	Nil
Pasteurised, retail distribution.....	15
Sterilised, retail distribution	55

(2). Meat and other Foods.

During the year 143 visits were made to butchers' shops, bakehouses and other food premises.

The slaughtering of animals for consumption in Royton continued to be controlled at Oldham, slaughtering in local slaughterhouses ceasing on 14th January, 1940.

One slaughterhouse is licensed for the slaughter of privately-owned pigs and 7 pigs were inspected.

A total weight of 372lbs. of meat and other foodstuffs was condemned during the year.

Seven food hawkers retailing in the area, and two premises are registered.

(3). Ice Cream.

Forty premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream and kept under supervision. 14 visits were made.

(4). Adulteration, etc.

The County Sanitary Officer reported that 52 samples of milk and 22 samples of other foodstuffs were taken in this area during the year.

The following are particulars of the samples:—

1 margarine	2 epsom salts
4 cooking fat	3 cocoa
1 rice	1 sponge cake and sponge
1 currants	pudding mixture
1 pepper flavoured compound	1 sodium bicarbonate
1 flour, self raising	1 forola
4 ice cream	1 lard

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action taken
1 formal milk	deficient of 6·6% fat	Vendor notified.
1 flour, self raising	available carbon dioxide only 0·11%.	Age of stock queried and further sample obtained.
1 informal milk	deficient 5% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor notified.
1 formal milk	1·6% of extraneous water.	} Prosecution Vendor fined £10 and 3 gns. costs.
1 formal milk	deficient 8·3% fat: 10·2% solids-not-fat and 9·9% of extraneous water.	

Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by Officers of the Lancashire County Council with my co-operation and assistance.

(5). Clean Food Campaign.

Two meetings of the Clean Food Committee, comprising Food Traders and Council Members, were held. 7 Certificates of Membership to the Association were issued. A series of three lectures on food hygiene was arranged, and well attended.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

List of adoptive Acts relating to Public Health in force in the district with the date of adoption:—

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 (from 1st October, 1891) repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (from 1st October, 1891) repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (from 8th April, 1914)

Part (2) Streets and Buildings, repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

Part (4) Infectious Diseases, repealed in Part by P.H.A., 1936.

Part (6) Recreation Grounds.

The Public Health Act, 1925 (from 1st March, 1926)

Part (2) Streets and Buildings, repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1951.

